

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OFFICIAL

Friday, October 29, 1892.

The board of supervisors met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the chairman. Roll called; quorum present.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

A petition was read from John E. Thomson asking the board to cause to be refunded to him the sum of \$16.72, being the amount of an alleged excessive tax paid by him in the Fifth ward in the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, and on motion of Mr. Hogadone the same was referred to the committee on rejected taxes and the supervisor of the Fifth ward.

The committee on justice, sheriff and constable bills made the following report, and on motion of Mr. Lathrop the same was adopted and the accounts allowed as recommended by the committee, a majority of the members elect voting therefor.

Albert Betterly, deputy sheriff bill, amount claimed, \$29.75; amount allowed, \$29.75.

Frank Barber, deputy sheriff bill, amount claimed, \$18.00; amount allowed, \$18.00; amount allowed, \$11.60.

Charles Murray, justice bill, amount claimed, \$3.65; amount allowed, \$3.65.

L. M. Burch, constable bill, amount claimed, \$3.20; amount allowed, \$3.20.

William Leonard, deputy sheriff bill, amount claimed, \$46.00; amount allowed, \$46.00.

Elliott G. Brown, justice bill, amount claimed, \$5.35; amount allowed, \$5.35.

Henry N. Pulver, deputy sheriff bill, amount claimed, \$3.87; amount allowed, \$3.87.

William Leonard, deputy sheriff bill, amount claimed, \$612.30; amount allowed, \$612.30.

Respectfully submitted, FRANK LADNER, C. H. SMITH, JAMES WARD, JAMES HILL, L. E. PAIGE, Committee.

The following report was read and on motion of Mr. Hogadone the same was adopted, a majority of the members elect voting therefor:

To the honorable board of supervisors of Kent county:

Gentlemen—Your special committee to whom was referred the matter of securing a stenographer for police court have had the matter under consideration, and would recommend that the chairman and clerk of this board be instructed to enter into a contract with James J. Atkinson to do all the stenographic work in the police court of the city of Grand Rapids for the ensuing year, beginning November 1, 1892, at a salary of eleven hundred dollars (\$1,100) per annum; and would ask to be discharged from further consideration of the same.

Respectfully submitted, HENRY B. PROCTOR, LEWIS A. SOLOMON, M. J. ULICH, Committee.

The following report was read: To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Kent County:

Gentlemen—Your committee on finance having carefully estimated the probable receipts and expenditures of the county for the ensuing year, recommend that the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars be raised by tax for county purposes and that the same be apportioned to the several townships and wards of the city and the amounts so apportioned be placed upon their respective rolls.

Your committee also recommend that the amounts charged to the several townships for support of poor as set forth in the following statement be placed upon the respective rolls of the townships and the amounts charged to the city for the same be apportioned to the several wards and the sums so apportioned be placed upon the rolls of the respective wards:

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visors of the County of Kent, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Six—You are hereby notified that a state tax has been apportioned to the several counties of the state, according to the last returns of the aggregate valuation of taxable property therein made to this office, and as equalized and determined by the state board of equalization, at their session in August, 1891.

The amount of state tax apportioned to your county, under various acts of the legislature is as follows, to wit:

University—Act No. 32, 1873.....\$ 2,500 00

University—General and other expenses, Act No. 25, 1891.....4,035 40

Normal School—Current expenses, Act No. 114, 1891.....2,046 90

Normal School—Closets and sewers, Act No. 142, 1891.....178 99

Agricultural College—General and other expenses, Act No. 171, 1891.....1,015 38

Mining School—Current expenses, Act No. 153, 1891.....1,274 33

School for the Blind—Current expenses, etc., Act No. 57, 1891.....1,017 70

School for the Deaf—Current and other expenses, Act No. 33, 1891.....2,368 58

Reform School—Current expenses and repairs, Act No. 150, 1891.....2,477 88

State Public School—Current expenses, repairs, etc., Act No. 34, 1891.....1,650 44

Industrial Home for Girls—Current and other expenses, Act No. 100, 1891.....1,548 67

Soldiers' Home—Current and other expenses, Act No. 19, 1891.....3,750 00

Board of Fish Commissioners—Act No. 131, 1891.....1,216 06

State Board of Health—Act No. 241, 1891.....88 50

Military Purposes—Act No. 171, 1879.....3,242 75

Recapitulation of Records in Adjutant General's Office—Act No. 20, 1891.....176 99

Publication of Proceedings of Superintendents of the Poor—Act No. 189, 1891.....3 32

World's Columbian Exposition—Act No. 188, 1891.....2,212 39

General Purposes—Act No. 192, 1891.....31,794 25

Total state tax to be apportioned.....\$62,796 33

There is also to be levied, as a portion of the county taxes, as required by section 23, act 200, Laws of 1891 (unless paid prior to October 1), the indebtedness of your county to the state on the 1st day of July, 1892, then amounting to \$2,611.39.

The indebtedness of your county must not be added to the state tax.

You will cause the above to be laid before the supervisors of your county at their session in October, 1892. Please acknowledge immediately the receipt of this notice.

Very respectfully, H. R. PRATT, Deputy Auditor General.

The following report was read, and on motion of Mr. Solomon the same was adopted and the recommendations therein contained concurred in, a majority of the members elect voting therefor:

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Kent County:

Gentlemen—Your committee on court house building submit herewith their final report. At the time of the formal opening of the building, July 4th last, there were some of the contracts unfinished. Since that time the work has been completed under all the contracts and final settlement has been had with Mr. J. Ackerman, A. Hirth & Son, DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co., Fred J. Blymire, William Reid & Son and Weatherly & Pulte. In the settlement with DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co. the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars still remains unpaid. On March 4th last a legal notice was served upon your committee by Mr. J. Ackerman alleging delay in the delivery of material for the work by Messrs. DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co., and a resulting damage to himself of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and of his purpose to hold the county liable for that amount. Copies of this notice were at once sent to Messrs. DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co., and they were urged by the committee to hasten the delivery of material so as to avoid any complications liable to result from delay. In the final settlement, Mr. Ackerman having refused to release his claim, we were advised by our prosecuting attorney that the only safe course would be to withhold the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars until some adjustment could be reached between Mr. Ackerman and Messrs. DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co., and acting in accord with that advice the above named sum was withheld. We submit a recommendation concerning the matter later on.

August 30th last we made a final settlement with our architect, S. J. Osgood, Esq. Under the terms of the contract with him, if technically construed, he would have been entitled to fees in all about \$10,000. Some changes were made in the construction of the building from time to time, the added cost of which Mr. Osgood agreed to assume. In the settlement Mr. Osgood allowed the claim as submitted by the committee, and agreed to receive the sum of nine thousand dollars in full for all claims for services, including all extras, also for sidewalk and platform. There has been paid to Mr. Osgood at sundry times the sum of \$6,500, leaving \$2,500 still due him. With reference to this balance your committee submit a recommendation later on.

In this connection your committee take occasion to express satisfaction

with the manner in which Mr. Osgood has discharged his duties as architect of the building. He has shown at all times a readiness to meet the call of the committee or of our superintendent for his personal attendance to any of the details of the work requiring his attention. Mr. Osgood has performed his part of the work with skill and fidelity and to the satisfaction of your committee.

At the same date, August 30, your committee closed its relations with Mr. Charles Woodward, our superintendent of construction. Your committee has heretofore referred to Mr. Woodward's faithful services and in this connection simply re-affirm what we have already stated, viz. that his fidelity to the county in insisting that labor and material in every case should be in exact accordance with the contracts has had much to do in securing for the county a building first-class in all respects.

There has been placed in the court house building fund, subject to the order of committee, amounts as follows:

Avails of the county bonds, \$157,725 20

July 13, 1891, funds transferred by order of board.....20,000 00

January 28, 1892, funds transferred by order of board.....40,000 00

July 13, 1892, funds transferred by order of board.....9,000 00

August 9, 1892, funds transferred by order of board.....1,500 00

August 30, 1892, per C. Woodward, sale of earth, etc.....6 20

Total.....\$228,231 40

There has been paid on account of the building and furnishing as follows:

Paid on account of original contract.....\$170,869 11

Paid extras outside of contract.....19,495 01

Stone sidewalks, platforms and coping.....13,059 49

Mantels and grates.....791 75

Gas fixtures.....2,040 65

Elevator and connections.....1,725 00

Vault fixtures.....4,658 97

Furniture.....11,310 00

Inside blinds.....2,485 00

Grading and sodding.....448 49

Varnishing and oiling floors, incidental, cleaning building, water, hose, bronzed rail around light wells, etc.....1,052 51

Total building and furnishing.....\$228,250 98

Your committee respectfully recommends:

First, that the sum of \$19.58 be transferred from the general fund to the court house building fund to balance payments from that fund, and that the court house building fund account on the treasurer's books be closed.

Second, that the sum of \$125 be held as a special fund to the credit of DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co., and that the treasurer be instructed to pay the same to DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co. whenever Mr. J. Ackerman will file a relinquishment of his claim against the county, or whenever Messrs. DeGraaf, Vrieling & Co. shall file an indemnity bond satisfactory to the treasurer, holding the county harmless from any claim by Mr. Ackerman for the cause as hereinbefore stated.

Third, that an order be drawn in favor of S. J. Osgood for the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars in full settlement for all claims by him as architect of the court house building.

In conclusion, your committee desires to place upon record their grateful appreciation of the uniform courtesy extended to them by the members of the board and covering the entire period of their services. From the beginning of our work the board has generously sustained the committee in all measures necessary to make the work a success, and at all stages of the work your committee has felt safe in following out the judgment of the board, and the result proves the wisdom of their action and has obtained for the people of Kent county a building, for the uses for which it is erected, second to none in our state.

Respectfully submitted, R. B. LOOMIS, J. W. WALKER, W. D. FROST, JAMES HILL, J. T. GOULD, Court House Building Committee.

The special order being reached, viz.: The consideration of the tabulated statement of moneys to be raised in townships, Mr. Emmons moved that the twenty-four township supervisors meet immediately after adjournment today to examine said statement.

Mr. Benjamin moved as a substitute that the twenty-four township supervisors meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon to examine said statement.

Carried.

Mr. Gill moved that the report of the committee on public buildings relative to improvements on the county jail be taken from the table.

Carried.

Mr. Hogadone moved that the report be adopted and that the committee on public buildings be authorized to advertise for plans for the reconstruction of the county jail and report at the January session. Carried.

Mr. Cogshall moved to rescind the action of the board last yesterday on the report of the committee on finance relative to making three-fourths payment monthly to deputy sheriffs and court messengers.

Lost by the following vote, the yeas and nays being called for:

Yeas—Messrs. Cogshall, Colson, Gill, Gould, Jones, Lee, Leppink, O'Leary, Proctor, Schermerhorn, Smith, Solomon, Ulrich, Walker, Ward, Warner, E. C. Woodward, W. F. Woodworth—18.

Nays—Messrs. Benjamin, Braman, Emmons, Fehrenfeld, Frost, Hill, Holgren, Hogadone, Holben, Hyde, Kinney, Lathrop, Lindenberg, Loomis, Paige, Rosenberg, Smith, Watkins, the Chairman—20.

Absent—Mr. Steele.

On motion of Mr. Lathrop, the several tax rolls were referred back to their respective townships and wards.

On motion of Mr. Benjamin, the board took a recess until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The board being again called to order by the chairman, the roll was read and a quorum was found present.

On the petition of Walter H. McBrien is endorsed the following report:

In accordance with the above petition, your committee hereby recommends that the supervisor for the town of Wyoming spread the sum of \$2.98 upon the tax roll of said township and when collected the town treasurer pay the same to the petitioner, Walter H. McBrien.

Respectfully submitted, N. D. EMMONS, Supervisor of Wyoming; H. O. SCHERMERHORN, JOSEPH HOLBEN, FREEMAN LATHROP, Committee on Rejected Taxes.

On motion of Mr. Benjamin, the report was adopted, a majority of the members elect voting therefor.

The following report was read and on motion of Mr. Proctor the same was adopted:

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Kent County:

Gentlemen—In the matter of the petition of John E. Thompson for the refunding of a certain portion of the tax on certain property in the fifth ward for the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, we would say that it appears to your committee to have been simply a difference in judgment between the supervisor who assessed for those years and the board of review, who finally lowered the valuation. There appears to have been no mistake or misapprehension on the part of the supervisor, and the petitioner paid said tax without protest during those years. His remedy, if grieved, was clearly before the board of review. We certainly consider it outside of the province of the committee on rejected taxes. The committee recommends its rejection.

Respectfully submitted, H. O. SCHERMERHORN, JOSEPH HOLBEN, FREEMAN LATHROP, Committee on Rejected Taxes.

The following report was read and on motion of Mr. Lathrop the same was adopted:

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Kent County:

Gentlemen, Your committee to whom was referred the communication of the deputy game warden of this county, have had the same under consideration and herewith report that in our opinion the total amount of money to be paid by the county to said game wardens should not exceed one hundred dollars per year for services necessarily performed, and not to exceed fifty days services per year for all deputies so acting. The number of deputies to be discretionary with the state game warden.

Respectfully submitted, MOSES ROSENBERG, E. H. JONES, L. E. PAIGE, L. C. WARNER, JOHN FEHRENFELD, Committee on roads and bridges.

On motion of Mr. Schermerhorn the clerk was instructed to spread upon the tax rolls of the following townships and wards, the following amount for soldiers' relief fund, a majority of the members elect voting therefor:

Lowell, \$84.80; Algoma, \$28.95; first ward, \$177.50; fourth ward, \$50; fifth ward, \$50; sixth ward, \$87.90; seventh ward, \$50; eighth ward, \$89.75; ninth ward, \$102.25; tenth ward, \$125; eleventh ward, \$98.30; twelfth ward, \$71.78.

The supervisors of the twenty-four townships of the county made the following report, and on motion of Mr. E. C. Woodward the same was adopted, a majority of the members elect voting therefor:

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Kent County:

Gentlemen—Your committee, consisting of the twenty-four supervisors of the towns of the county, to whom was referred the report of the finance committee containing the amount of money to be raised in the several townships, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and report the annexed statement as the amount of moneys to be raised in the several townships, and recommend that the clerk be directed to place the several amounts upon the proper rolls.

Respectfully submitted, LEWIS A. SOLOMON, Chairman.

CORNER H. SMITH, Secretary.

Composition of Gems.

It is a singular fact that the most precious gems are composed of the most common substances. The diamond is the purest form of carbon and is identical in composition with ordinary charcoal without the impurities of the latter. The ruby, on the other hand, is nearly pure alumina, a substance found in profusion in every clay bank. The scientific name for crystallized alumina is corundum, and the gems comprehended under this designation are sometimes more valuable than diamonds of the same weight. The ruby, the sapphire, the oriental emerald, the oriental topaz, the oriental amethyst, the oriental aqua marine, the oriental chrysolite, the hyacinth and other precious stones are all alumina, the varieties of color being caused by impure quantities of metallic oxides.

On motion of Mr. Hill, a majority of the members elect voting therefor, the clerk was instructed to draw an order for S. J. Osgood for \$500 to apply on account.

Mr. Cogshall moved that the committee on equalization be requested to furnish the clerk with the apportionment of state and county taxes and make their report tomorrow.

Carried.

On motion of Mr. Jones the board adjourned until tomorrow at 9 o'clock in the forenoon.

A. W. WEEKES, Chairman.

CORNELIUS L. HARVEY, Clerk.

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CORNELIUS L. HARVEY, Clerk.

HOTTEST SPOT ON EARTH.

Bahrin in Persia Said to Possess That Unbearable Distinction.

The hottest region on the earth's surface is on the southwestern coast of Persia, on the border of the Persian gulf. For forty consecutive days in the months of July and August the mercury has been known to stand above one hundred degrees in the shade night and day, and to run up as high as one hundred and thirty degrees in the middle of the afternoon.

At Bahrin, in the center of the most torrid part of this most torrid belt, as though it was nature's intention to make the place as unbearable as possible, water from wells is something unknown.

Great shafts have been sunk to a depth of one hundred, two hundred, three hundred, and even five hundred feet, but always with the same result—no water. This serious drawback notwithstanding, a comparatively numerous population contrives to live there, thanks to copious springs which burst forth from the bottom of the gulf more than a mile from the shore. The water from these springs is obtained in a most curious and novel manner.

"Machadores," whose sole occupation is that of furnishing the people of Bahrin with the life-giving fluid, repair to that portion of the gulf where the springs are situated and bring away with them hundreds of skin bags full of water each day. The water of the gulf where the spring bursts forth is nearly two hundred feet deep, but these "machadores" (divers) manage to fill their goat skin sacks by diving to the bottom and holding the mouth of the bags over the fountain jets; this, too, without allowing the salt water of the gulf to mix with it.

The source of these submarine fountains is thought to be in the hills of